

152

Andover Nov 16th 1858,

Dear Mr. Garrison,

I sent by my husband a short time since, and got blank petitions to the Legislature, thinking I would sign myself, and call upon those whose signatures I should be most likely to obtain, I called first upon ~~Professor~~ Prof. Stow, and received a severe cold bath, I however soon rallied, and set about the work, I have obtained a number of names, and intend to get many more. I meet some singular objections, even from republicans, and those who profess to be antislavery. Professor S. illustrated one objection by supposed dissatisfaction with his wife and marrying another before getting a divorce, He would sign a petition to the Federal Government, to abolish the clause in the Constitution, to send back fugitives from labor. Would he hope to be heard? I think not.

We want in this morally dead, spiritually spell bound community, a series of lectures,

that shall arouse the people, and teach them to do their own thinking so effectually that they shall never forget it, This will never be done by Professors nor Priests,

We have a new Town Hall in process of finishing, which will be completed in season for one or more lectures before the opening of the Legislature. We want a strong antislavery lecture from Wendell Phillips with reasons why all true hearted men and women should sign the petition to the Legislature, which is now being circulated,

In the bonds of a common humanity,
yours, Rebecca H. Foster,

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